United Nations ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2018/6

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
8 March 2018

Original: English

Economic Commission for Europe

Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context

Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment

Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment

Seventh meeting
Geneva, 28–30 May 2018
Item 3 of the provisional agenda
Compliance and implementation

Draft decision IS/2 on the updated guidelines on environmental impact assessment in a transboundary context for Central Asian countries

Proposal by the Bureau

Summary

The Meetings of the Parties to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context and its Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment agreed at their sessions in 2014 and 2017 on the further development and update of the 2007 draft guidelines on environmental impact assessment in a transboundary context for Central Asian countries (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.1/2007/6), as set out in the workplans for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocol for the periods 2014–2017 and 2017–2020 (ECE/MP.EIA/20/Add.3-ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/4/Add.3, decision VI/3-VII/3, annex I and ECE/MP.EIA/23/Add.1-ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/7/Add.1, decision VII/3-III/3, annex I,

GE.18-03608(E)

1803608

Please recycle

respectively). Pursuant to those workplans, this task has been carried out by consultants to the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe in consultation with the Central Asian countries, with support from the secretariat and funding from Switzerland.

The draft updated guidelines are presented in document ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2018/3 for the consideration of the Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment at its seventh meeting.

The present document contains a draft decision on the updated guidelines proposed by the Bureau of the Convention's and Protocol's governing bodies. The Working Group is expected to consider the draft decision, finalize its text and agree on its submission to the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention at its intermediary session, scheduled to be held in Geneva from 5 to 7 February 2019.

Draft decision IS/2

Updated guidelines on environmental impact assessment in a transboundary context for Central Asian countries

The Meeting of the Parties to the Convention,

Recalling its decisions VI/3–II/3 and VII/3–III/3 on adoption of the workplans for the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context and its Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment for the periods 2014–2017 and 2017–2020, respectively, its decision IV/5 on capacity-building in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and its decision VI/8 on general guidance on enhancing consistency between the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context and environmental impact assessment within the framework of State ecological expertise in countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia,

Having considered the outcomes of the subregional workshops for the further development and update of the guidelines for transboundary environmental impact assessment in Central Asia,[1] and the needs expressed by the Central Asian countries for assistance to further develop their national legislation and capacity for its implementation,

Aware that the national legislation and systems in countries of the subregion share many commonalities, but also present distinctive features and represent various degrees of development and alignment with the Convention,

Welcoming the efforts of countries in Central Asia to develop their legislation and capacities as well as intergovernmental cooperation to implement transboundary environmental impact assessment procedures in accordance with the Convention within their specific subregional context,

Convinced that the Convention [is an] [and its Protocol are] effective instrument[s] for fostering environmentally sound and sustainable development, and for supporting closer international cooperation,

[*Encouraging* the Central Asian countries that are not yet Parties to the Convention to take steps towards joining it],

Acknowledging the further need to raise awareness of the benefits of the Convention and to assist countries in Central Asia in their efforts to align their legislation and to build capacities to effectively implement its provisions,

Wishing to assist Parties to the Convention in Central Asia in complying fully with their obligations under the Convention, and to promote the effective application of the procedures based on the Convention by the other countries in the subregion,

1. *Endorses* the updated Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context for Central Asian Countries (Guidelines)[, as contained in document (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2018/3)][, as revised by the secretariat based on the comments made];

2. *Recommends* that the countries in Central Asia take into account the contents of the Guidelines when implementing transboundary environmental impact assessment procedures;

[1] ECE/MP.EIA/WG.1/2007/6.

3. *Calls on* these countries to distribute the Guidelines to authorities and relevant stakeholders and promote its application in practice;

4. *Encourages* the Central Asian countries to further develop their national legislation with regard to transboundary environmental impact assessment procedures based on the Convention;

5. *Invites* the donor Governments and organizations to explore opportunities for funding further technical assistance and capacity-building;

6. *Welcomes* the plans to further complement the guidance based on the outcomes of legislative reviews and capacity-building to be carried out.